

# Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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October 4, 2013

## St. Mary's County Launches Website and Social Media Initiative



In August, St. Mary's County local health department (LHD) launched a new website and social media initiative to better serve the health needs of their residents. The St. Mary's County Health Department encourages users to browse the updated resources designed to assist residents and the community in meeting its health needs.

The updated website offers tailored information, services, and resources for individuals, the community, businesses, and health care providers. The health department is also offering important tips, resources and information about health services through its new Facebook and Twitter pages. These resources are more up to date, easy to understand, and easy to find.

Click [here](#) to visit the St. Mary's County LHD Web site to get the most up-to-date information about services, facts, advisories, and more.

Click [here](#) to find the St. Mary's County LHD on Facebook.

Click [here](#) to find the St. Mary's County LHD on Twitter.

Click [here](#) to view the St. Mary's County SHIP County profile.

## One in Five Households with Children in Maryland Report Inability to Afford Enough Food



According to a new national report, *Food Hardship 2008-2012: Geography and Household Composition*, released by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), more than 20% of households with children in Maryland said there were times in the prior year when they did not have enough money to buy food. Approximately 13% of households *without* children in Maryland reported the same experience, which is consistent with food insecurity data released by the Economic Research Service of the

U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The FRAC analysis examines food hardship rates for households with and without children for the nation, states, regions, and 100 of the largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), including the Baltimore-Towson area in Maryland. For the Baltimore-Towson MSA, the food hardship rate was 20.5% for households with children, and 13.7% for households without children.

Click [here](#) to access the report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for increasing access to healthy foods.

### Expanding Medicaid in Maryland

In Maryland, approximately 800,000 residents, or 14% of the population, are currently uninsured. As of October 1, 2013, more low-income Marylanders will now be eligible for Medicaid. Maryland has expanded the state's Medicaid program from 116% of the federal poverty line, to include individuals up to 138% of the poverty line.



By expanding Medicaid, an estimated 143,000 more residents will be insured by 2020, according to a 2012 analysis by [The Hilltop Institute](#) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Expanding Medicaid coverage for low-income adults could reduce mortality by 6.1%. Expanding Medicaid also helps the Maryland economy and state budget, by adding \$2.5 billion in federal funds by the end of 2020.

Click [here](#) for more information about Medicaid in Maryland.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the proportion of those unable to afford to see a doctor.

### State-by-State Monthly Marketplace Premiums



A recent report suggests that the Affordable Care Act will make health insurance more affordable and accessible for Americans with limited resources. The report, released by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), discusses the affordable options that will be available through the Health

Insurance Marketplace in 2014. Approximately 95% of all eligible uninsured Americans live in states with average premiums below earlier projections. About 95% of all consumers will have a choice of health insurance providers, each offering a number of different plans.

Many of the Marketplaces will be run in partnership with states or by HHS. Consumers will have a choice of health plans that accommodate their health care needs. Young adults in particular, will have the additional option of low-cost catastrophic or youth plans.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for increasing the proportion of people with health insurance.

### News from the Office of Primary Care Access

#### UM Shore Regional Health "Ask the Expert" Series

The University of Maryland Shore Regional Health is kicking off its "Ask the Expert" series, a free community health program. Upcoming talks include:

Richard Fritz, MD, from Shore Pediatrics, hosting "Keeping Your Children Healthy This Season," on Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Library, in Easton, MD.

Khalid Kurtom, MD, from Chesapeake Neurological Surgery, LLC, hosting "Management of Back Pain," on Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, in Denton, MD.

#### Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement (Rural Quality) Grant

The Office of Rural Health Policy is pleased to announce the release of 30 new Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement (Rural Quality) Grant awards in FY 2013. The program supports the implementation of quality improvement activities in rural health care organizations to promote the development of an evidence-based culture and the delivery of coordinated care in the primary care setting.

Congratulations to Allegany Health Right, Inc. in Cumberland, MD for receiving supplement funding under this grant!

Click [here](#) for additional information about the FY 2013 Rural Quality grantees.

## **Rural Health Network Development Planning (Network Planning) Grant**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is pleased to announce the release of 18 new Rural Health Network Development Planning (Network Planning) Grant awards in FY 2013. The goal of the program is to bring together key parts of the rural health care delivery system to work together to establish or improve local capacity and coordination of care.

Click [here](#) for additional information on the FY 2013 Network Planning grantees.

## **Funding Opportunities**

**Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows** - A fellowship program designed to develop the capacity of mid-career health professionals and behavioral and social scientists with an interest in health to participate in health policy processes at the federal level. The application deadline is November 13, 2013.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Students to Service Loan Repayment Program (S2S LRP)** - Provides loan repayment assistance to medical students (MD and DO) who agree to provide primary care health services in eligible Health Professional Shortage Areas of greatest need. The application deadline is November 14, 2013.

Click [here](#) for more information.